

**COUNTRY DATA: KAZAKHSTAN** : Information from the CIA World Factbook

## INTRODUCTION

**Ethnic Kazakhs, a mix of Turkic and Mongol nomadic tribes who migrated into the region in the 13th century, were rarely united as a single nation. The area was conquered by Russia in the 18th century, and Kazakhstan became a Soviet Republic in 1936. During the 1950s and 1960s agricultural "Virgin Lands" program, Soviet citizens were encouraged to help cultivate Kazakhstan's northern pastures. This influx of immigrants (mostly Russians, but also some other deported nationalities) skewed the ethnic mixture and enabled non-ethnic Kazakhs to outnumber natives. Independence in 1991 drove many of these newcomers to emigrate. Kazakhstan's economy is larger than those of all the other Central Asian states largely due to the country's vast natural resources. Current issues include: developing a cohesive national identity; expanding the development of the country's vast energy resources and exporting them to world markets; diversifying the economy outside the oil, gas, and mining sectors; enhancing Kazakhstan's economic competitiveness; developing a multiparty parliament and advancing political and social reform; and strengthening relations with neighboring states and other foreign powers.**

## GEOGRAPHY

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| Location                        | Central asia, Northwest of China; a small portion west of the Ural (Zhayyq) River in eastern-most Europe                                                                            |
| Area                            | total: 2,724,900 sq km<br>Land: 2,699,000 sq km<br>Water: 25,200 sq km                                                                                                              |
| Climate                         | continental, cold winters and hot summers, arid ad semiarid                                                                                                                         |
| Natural Resources               | major deposits of petroleum, natural gas, coal, iron ore, manganese, chrome ore, nickel, cobalt, copper, molybdenum, lead, zinc, bauxite, gold, uranium                             |
| Total Renewable Water Resources | 109.6 cu km (1997)                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Freshwater Withdrawal           | total: 35 cu km/yr<br>Per capita: 2,360 cu m/yr                                                                                                                                     |
| Natural Hazards                 | earthquakes in the south; mudslides around Almaty                                                                                                                                   |
| Environmental Issues            | Radioactive or toxic chemical sites associated with former defense industries and test ranges scattered throughout the country pose health risks for humans and animals; industrial |

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|                                  | pollution is severe in some cities; because the two main rivers that flowed into the Aral Sea have been diverted for irrigation, it is drying up and leaving behind a harmful layer of chemical pesticides and natural salts; these substances are then picked up by the wind and blown into noxious dust storms; pollution in Caspian Sea; soil pollution from overuse of agricultural chemicals and salination from poor infrastructure and wasteful irrigation practices. |
| <b>PEOPLE</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Population</b>                | 15,522,373 ) July 2010 est.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Ethnic Groups</b>             | Kazakh (Qazaq) 53.4%, Russian 30%, Ukrainian 3.7%, Uzbek 2.5%, German 2.4%, Tatar 1.7%, Uighur 1.4%, other 4.9% (1999 census)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Religions</b>                 | Muslim 47%, Russian Orthodox 44%, Protestant 2%, other 7%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Languages</b>                 | Kazakh (state language) 64.4%, Russian 95%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Literacy Rate</b>             | total: 99.5%<br>male: 99.8%<br>Female: 99.3%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Major Infectious Diseases</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>GOVERNMENT</b>                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Type</b>                      | republic; authoritarian presidential rule, with little power outside the executive branch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Independence</b>              | 16 December 1991 (from Soviet Union)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Constitution</b>              | first post-independence constitution adopted 28 January 1993; new constitution adopted by national referendum 30 August 1995                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Legal System</b>              | based on Islamic law and Roman law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>ECONOMY</b>                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Agricultural Products</b>     | Grain, cotton; livestock                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Industries</b>                | oil, coal, iron ore, manganese, chromite, lead, zinc, copper, titanium, bauxite, gold, silver, phosphates, sulfur, uranium, iron and steel; tractors and other agricultural machinery, electric motors, construction materials                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Import commodities</b>        | machinery and equipment, metal products, foodstuffs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Import Partners</b>           | Russia 28.5%, Cina 26.72%, Germnay 6.59%, Italy 5.58%, Ukraine 4.8%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Export Commodities</b>        | oil and oil products 59%, ferrous metals 19%, chemicals 5%, machinery 3%, grain, wool, meat, coal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Export Partners</b>           | China 16.34%, France 9.23%, Germany 8.32%, Russia 6.9%, Ukraine 5.52%, Romania                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                               | 5.25%, Italy 5.12%, US 4.34%                                                               |
| Per Capita GDP                | \$ 197.7 billion (2010 est.)<br>\$184.8 billion (2009 est.)<br>\$182.6 billion (2008 est.) |
| Population below poverty line | 8.2%                                                                                       |

\*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.